completion of pending residual work of land acquisition and rehabilitation. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have to pay their balance share costs of Rs. 0.23 crores and Rs. 34.04 crores respectively.

(c) Government of Madhya Pradesh is being regularly pursued by Union Government to pay their balance share cost. To overcome the financial difficulties faced by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Union Government have released Rs. 11.5 crores and allocated Rs. 8.75 crores as Central Loan Assistance to the State Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. The project is likely to be completed by 2000-2001 subject to the immediate release of the outstanding dues by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Consensus to Ken Project between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

†2138. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dam under Ken multi-purpose project between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is proposed to be constructed in Gangau;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this project is not making much progress in the absence of consensus on the issue of water distribution between both the States; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government in this direction and by when the consensus is likely to be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the absence of consensus between the basin States on the issue of dependable yield of the basin, the progress has been jeopardized.

(c) Union Government have requested the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to finalise the dependable yield studies

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and submit modified report to Central Water Commission. The time to reach consensus will depend upon the priority attached to project by the State.

Disparity of Water Distribution

2139. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there exist grave disparities of water distribution in different parts of the country as some regions have excess water resources that are wasted whereas others suffer from perpetual scarcities;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a national water grid to bring about a balanced supply of precious water resources in the country which can be similar to that of our existing regional power grids; and

(c) if so, by when and whether any budgetary provisions have been made or are likely to made during the Ninth Five Year Plan period in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Due to uneven temporal & spatial distribution of rainfall, some regions in the country have excess water resources which are not fully utilised where as some regions are deficient in water resource. The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in the country which envisages inter-linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. This perspective plan comprises two main components viz., (a) Himalayan Rivers Development and (b) Peninsular Rivers Development. For firming up the proposals of inter-linking Peninsular as well as the